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Analysis of the Arrest of a Pimp and the Identification of a Victim

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**Analysis of the Arrest of a Cambridge Pimp and
the Identification of a Victim**

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The following story from Cambridge, Massachusetts illustrates why we need a prostitution law in Rhode Island to assist victims of pimps and traffickers.

- 1) Police investigate when there is a report of prostitution in a hotel (In RI, there would be no investigation because there is no law against prostitution indoors.)
- 2) To determine if the report is true and to investigate the police call the sex-for-sale advertisement and go to the hotel posing as a “john.” (In RI, if there is not a law against selling sex, the police would have no crime to investigate.)
- 3) After talking to the police, the woman admits that she is being forced to engage in prostitution and has been threatened with bodily harm. She admits that she is being compelled into prostitution by the pimp using manipulation, fear and extreme control. (One of the unique things about the crimes of pimping and sex trafficking is that the victim rarely comes forward or calls for assistance. She is usually too frightened. They usually have to be found by investigations.)
- 4) The pimp claims that he is helping the victim by saving her from the street. (Pimps always claim they are really acting in the best interest of their victims.)
- 5) The pimp has all the money; the victim has none. (When people hear about how much money is made from prostitution, they assume the woman is getting all or most of it. Not true.)
- 6) The pimp has the computer and cell phones. (It isn’t clear if the victim has any way to communicate.)

Only because there was a law against prostitution did the police investigate and find a victim of sex trafficking. The House bill (H 5044A) creates such a law, the Senate bill (S 0596A/4) does not.

Cambridge pimp arrested for forcing woman into prostitution

By Erin Smith

Wicked Local Cambridge

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Cambridge —

A Cambridge pimp who was arrested at gunpoint outside a Somerville hotel told detectives he had saved his female captive from the streets by forcing her to have sex for money against her will.

Darrell Graham, 46, of 189 Western Ave. in Cambridge, was arrested last Friday and charged with deriving support from prostitution and kidnapping.

The investigation began after a tipster called police June 26 to report a man had rented a room at a Somerville hotel for suspected prostitution. A detective later called a sex-for-sale advertisement and posed as a prospective client to arrange an appointment for later that day.

Investigators arrested Graham after police found a 31-year-old Pepperell woman set up in a prostitution scheme at La Quinta Inn at 23 Cummings St. in Somerville. The woman allegedly admitted Graham forced her to have sex with clients for money and threatened her with bodily harm if she did not perform, according to reports.

Somerville detectives said when they arrived at the hotel at about 8 p.m. to meet the victim, Graham and a second man were spotted leaving the hotel and going outside to sit in a blue Ford Escape in the hotel parking lot.

Inside the hotel room the victim was reluctant to speak with cops, according to the report. Somerville police said the woman was nervous and concerned about identifying her pimp and the details of the prostitution scheme. Police reported the victim described to investigators her history with the pimp, who allegedly used manipulation, extreme control and fear to dominate her, according to Somerville authorities.

When police officers approached Graham in his parked car, he allegedly tried to put the car in reverse and driving away. Fearing for their safety, detectives arrested Graham at gunpoint, according to police reports. After he was handcuffed, Graham allegedly claimed he saved the victim from the perils of the streets and was acting in her best interest, police said.

Police said they seized a large sum of money from Graham. When questioned about the cash, Graham allegedly couldn't accurately tell detectives how much he had, telling officers it was for a prescheduled car purchase. Detectives also seized an Apple laptop computer and three cell phones from Graham's car.

The victim did not have any money on her or in her luggage, according to police.